

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action mailed June 17, 2004. The specification has been amended to correct errors generated during the translation and in preparation of the substitute specification. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in any divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, or other application. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been introduced. Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 1-4 are allowable.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 5-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 has been canceled, thus the rejection is moot with respect to this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse with respect to the remaining claims.

Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to more accurately reflect the subject matter of the Markush group. The amendments to claims 5 and 6 do not narrow the scope of the claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejection.

II. CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as allegedly being in improper dependent form by not further

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limiting the subject matter. Applicants have canceled claim 10, thus the objection may be withdrawn.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Benton et al. Claim 10 has been canceled, thus the rejection is moot with respect to this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

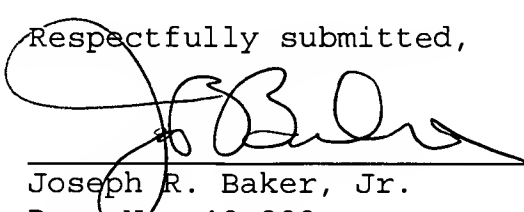
Claims 1-8 are non-obvious over Benton et al. Furthermore, claims 1-4 are indicated as allowable. Claims 9-12 are dependent upon at least claim 1. The Examiner is respectfully reminded that if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); MPEP §2143.03. Thus, Applicants submit, that claims 9-12 are non-obvious over Benton et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Date: _____

9/14/04
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Respectfully submitted,



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